

Message Text

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SUBJECT: MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION WITH THE TURKISH MINISTER
OF AGR.

AFTER THE NORMAL EXCHANGE OF PLEASANTRIES, MINISTER OZAL STATED THAT
HE WAS VERY PLEASED WITH HIS RECENT TRIP TO THE U.S. HE HAD A
MEETING WITH SECRETARY BUTZ WHICH LASTED NEARLY TWO HOURS.

THE MAIN PURPOSE OF HIS REQUEST FOR THIS MEETING WAS TO EXPLAIN
TO ME WHAT HAD HAPPENED DURING HIS TRIP TO THE U.S. AND TO HAVE
THE CONCURRENCE OF THE EMBASSY FOR HIS REQUEST OF TECHNICAL
ASSISTANCE FROM THE U.S.

THE MINISTER EXPLAINED THAT HE HAD CONFERRED WITH OFFICIALS OF THE
STATE DEPARTMENT, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND THE INTERIOR
DEPARTMENT IN AN EFFORT TO OBTAIN CLOSER COOPERATION WITH THE
U.S. IN RECEIVING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE. HIS POLICY FOR
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AGRICULTURE IN TURKEY IS TO PUSH FORWARD AS QUICKLY AS

POSSIBLE, NOT ONLY TOWARD SELF-SUFFICIENCY BUT ALSO TO BE ABLE TO PRODUCE A SURPLUS OF COMMODITIES WHICH WOULD EARN BADLY NEEDED FOREIGN EXCHANGE FOR THIS COUNTRY. TO ACHIEVE THIS GOAL HE WOULD LIKE TO STRENGTHEN THE DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SYSTEM AND ALSO DEVELOP A STRONGER AND BETTER EXTENSION SERVICE. HE STATED THAT THE EXTENSION SERVICE THAT HAD BEEN DEVELOPED BY THE USAID MISSION IS NO LONGER ADAPTED TO THE AGRICULTURAL NEEDS OF THIS COUNTRY AND HE WOULD LIKE TO GET ASSISTANCE IN DEVELOPING A BETTER SYSTEM TAILORED TO PRESENT NEEDS. THE METHOD OF FINANCING HIS REQUESTS WOULD BE DISCUSSED AT A LATER DATE AND HE FELT THAT THE COST WOULD NOT BE VERY HIGH. IN THE MEANTIME, SECRETARY BUTZ HAS PROMISED TO SEND A MISSION OF U.S. EXPERTS TO TURKEY SOMETIME IN SEPTEMBER TO DETERMINE WHAT THE NEEDS ARE AND HOW THE U.S. COULD SUPPLY THE APPROPRIATE ASSISTANCE.

IN OUR MEETING IT WAS AGREED THAT ON A PRELIMINARY BASIS, DR. AHMET RAHMI, THE UNDERSECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE AND WALTER STERN, THE U.S. AG ATTACHE, SHOULD MEET IN THE NEAR FUTURE TO STUDY THE PROBLEMS OF MUTUAL INTEREST THAT COULD BE DISCUSSED DURING THE VISIT OF THE EXPERTS.

I ALSO INFORMED THE MINISTER THAT THE EMBASSY WOULD BE VERY GLAD TO COOPERATE IN ANY OTHER APPROPRIATE WAY IN HIS PROPOSED ENDEAVOR. IN ADDITION I SPOKE OF MY INTEREST IN THE WORK PRESENTLY BEING CONDUCTED IN TURKEY BY THE ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION. IN THIS CONNECTION I NOTED THE IMPORTANCE OF EXPANDING WHEAT PRODUCTION ON THE ANATOLIAN PLATEAU TO THE POINT WHERE TURKEY'S WHEAT NEEDS (AND SOME SURPLUS FOR EXPORT) WERE ENTIRELY MET THERE SO THAT THE FERTILE COASTAL AREAS COULD BE RESERVED COMPLETELY FOR PRODUCTION OF MORE VALUABLE CASH CROPS. THE MINISTER AGREED THAT THIS SHOULD BE A BASIC GOT AGRICULTURAL OBJECTIVE.

WE THEN TURNED TO THE SUBJECT OF POPPIES. I COMPLIMENTED THE MINISTER FOR HIS ROLE IN THE ECEVIT GOVERNMENT WITH RESPECT TO THE GOT DECISION TO ABSORB THE POPPY STRAW PROCESS, AND SUBSEQUENTLY ON HIS ROLE IN THE DEMIREL GOVERNMENT WHERE HE HAD SUPERVISED THE SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION OF THAT PROCEDURE DURING THE FIRST YEAR IT HAD BEEN PUT INTO EFFECT. I INDICATED CONCERN, HOWEVER, THAT IF THE PRODUCTION OF POPPIES IS INCREASED TOO RAPIDLY TO MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE NEW ALKALOID PLANT, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE PRESENT RIGID SURVEILLANCE MAY NOT KEEP PACE WITH THE EXPANSION IN THE POPPY CULTIVATION.

WHILE I INTENDED THIS CAUTION TO APPLY TO BOTH THIS AND FUTURE YEARS EXPANSIONS, THE MINISTER IN HIS RESPONSE FOCUSED ON THE PROBLEM OF THIS YEAR. HE SAID THAT WHILE THE PRODUCTION OF POPPIES WOULD BE NEARLY DOUBLE THIS YEAR, THEY WOULD BE GROWN WITHIN THE SAME AREA AS LAST YEAR AND THAT THIS MEANT INCREASED PRODUCTION

STEMMED FROM INCREASED DENSITY OF GROWING RATHER THAN FROM AN
INCREASE
IN TERRITORY TO BE SURVEILLED. THE SURVEILLANCE TASK, THERE-
FORE, HE FELT WOULD NOT RPT NOT BE MADE SIGNIFICANTLY MORE DIFFICULT,
ESPECIALLY AS THIS YEAR HE EXPECTED THE NEW SURVEILLANCE EQUIPMENT
(COMPASS TRIP) TO BE AVAILABLE FROM THE U.N.

THE MINISTER AND I AGREED TO MEET AGAIN IN THE NEAR FUTURE AND
STUDY IN GREATER DETAILS HIS REQUEST FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
FROM THE U.S. MACOMBER UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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